

May 4, 2023



FROM THE DESK OF  
COMMISSIONER  
BRENT BAILEY  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



*The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues and the continuous work we are doing for the citizens in the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.*

*Brent Bailey*

## Hurricane Preparedness Week Brings Hurricane Hunters to Jackson

**H**urricanes are among nature's most powerful and destructive phenomena. On average, 14 tropical named storms, seven of which become hurricanes (three of those become major hurricanes), form over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico during the hurricane season which runs from June 1 to November 30 each year. Over a typical 2-year period, the U.S. coastline is struck by an average of 3 hurricanes, 1 of which is classified as a major hurricane (winds of 111 mph or greater). By knowing what actions to take before the hurricane season begins, when a hurricane approaches, when the storm is in your area, and what to do after a hurricane leaves your area, you can better protect yourself and your family.

National Hurricane Preparedness Week is April 30th - May 6th, 2023. The National Weather Service, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and other agencies are teaming up to promote hurricane preparation and awareness to Mississippians. With warmer weather quickly approaching, now is the time to prepare for hurricane season. Test your generator, inventory the first aid kit, protect critical paperwork, review insurance policies and have at least 5 days of non-perishable foods on hand. Review evacuation plans and routes and discuss with the family other contingencies. If each Mississippian would take a few moments this week to learn about hurricane safety and implement a hurricane safety plan, then we would all be better off when hurricanes threaten our area. **Remember, it only takes ONE storm to turn your life upside down.**

The Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport was the latest stop for the [2023 Hurricane Awareness Tour](#). Hurricane experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) arrived in Jackson flying aboard a U.S. Air Force Reserve WC-130J "Hercules" hurricane hunter aircraft and a NOAA WP-3D "Orion" aircraft. The stop provided a unique opportunity to tour each aircraft, meet the pilots and crew, speak with hurricane forecasters and National Weather Service meteorologists, and learn about hurricane safety and awareness.



**2023 Hurricane Awareness Tour**  
**Pictured with National Weather Service Jackson**  
**Meteorologist-In-Charge Bill Parker**



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The WC-130J is the primary weather data collection vehicle for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, a component of the 403<sup>rd</sup> Wing located at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS. It is the only operational unit in the world flying weather reconnaissance on a routine basis. This plane is configured to penetrate tropical systems and hurricanes to obtain data on storm center, movement, size and intensity. It carries a crew of five and flies multiple crisscross patterns across a tropical system continuously collecting weather data.

The NOAA WP-3D aircraft collects low-altitude data to fill gaps in data not available from ground-based radar or satellite imagery. The on-board radar equipment captures 3-D images of a hurricane and feeds the information back almost instantaneously to the National Hurricane Center for incorporation into weather prediction models. This aircraft will fly through the eyewall of a hurricane many times over a ten-hour mission to record wind and pressure changes. The crew also

deploys multiple probes as the aircraft flies through the hurricane. The instruments continuously collect and transmit measurements of pressure, humidity, temperature, wind direction and speed providing a detailed look at the structure of the storm. New instrumentation helps more accurately forecast storm surge, a major cause of hurricane-related deaths. NOAA aircraft are based at its Aircraft Operations Center in Lakeland, FL.



This particular aircraft is named the "Miss Piggy" and has a twin named "Kermit". The Jim Henson family approved and endorsed the use of Muppet characters for the naming of the NOAA aircraft. There is another plane named "Gonzo" in the NOAA fleet. The "Miss Piggy" has flown hundreds of missions since it went into service in 1977 and has flown through the strongest hurricanes on record. When the plane is retired in 2030, its final resting place will be the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC.





## What Are The Storm Predictions for The 2023 Hurricane Season?

The 2022 hurricane season produced 14 named storms (winds of 39 mph or greater), of which eight became hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or greater) and two intensified to major hurricanes with winds reaching 111 mph or greater. Hurricanes Ian, Nicole and Fiona brought extensive damage to Florida's coast and Puerto Rico, respectively. The impacts will continue to be felt for years to come. The 2022 hurricane season also had a rare mid-season lull with no named storms forming in the entire month of August.

Tropical Cyclone Names 2023			
Atlantic Basin			
Arlene	Gert	Margot	Tammy
Bret	Harold	Nigel	Vince
Cindy	Idalia	Ophelia	Whitney
Don	Jose	Philippe	
Emily	Katia	Rina	
Franklin	Lee	Sean	

\* New names in 2023 replacing Harvey, Irma, Maria and Nate

In advance of each hurricane season, several forecasts of hurricane activity are issued by national meteorological services, universities, scientific agencies, and noted hurricane experts. NOAA is expected to release its prediction for the upcoming hurricane season in late May.

Colorado State University (CSU) hurricane researchers are predicting a "slightly below-average" Atlantic hurricane season in 2023. The CSU Tropical Meteorology Project team is predicting 13 named storms during the Atlantic hurricane season. Of those, researchers expect six to become hurricanes and two to reach major hurricane strength (Category 3 or greater).

Tropical Storm Risk (TSR) also predicts the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season will see activity levels below the 30-year average. TSR forecasts 12 named tropical storms, six hurricanes, and 2 major hurricanes.

Meanwhile, Arizona State University's Hydrology & Atmospheric Scientists predict an active season over the North Atlantic. Their 2023 prediction includes 19 named storms, 9 hurricanes and 5 major hurricanes.

The Weather Company's (TWC) prediction is close to the average, but notes that the 2023 season has more uncertainty than usual. TWC is forecasting 15 named storms, seven of which will become hurricanes, and three of which will become major hurricanes.

What each of these predictions don't and can't do is predict exactly where or when one the storms will make landfall. A hurricane season with fewer storms can still deliver that one major hurricane that devastates an entire area. Make adequate preparations before every hurricane season.

## Mississippi Industrial Energy Efficiency Program Grant

The Mississippi Development Authority is now accepting grant applications for the 2023 Mississippi Industrial Energy Efficiency Program (MIEEP), which is made possible through State Energy Program funds from the U.S. Department of Energy. Matching grants are available to industrial manufacturers for energy efficiency retrofits to their facilities. Grants from the program range between \$15,000 and \$50,000. Interested organizations should review the [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#), [application](#) and [presentation](#) for more details.





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The MIEEP is designed to assist Mississippi companies with making energy efficient upgrades to their facilities to reduce energy consumption and operating costs, as well as assist industries in creating and/or retaining jobs. Applications and required attachments should be submitted by July 14, 2023.

Grant funding from the MIEEP allows for the purchase and installation of commercially available energy-efficient fixtures, installations, and upgrades of systems. Energy-efficiency retrofits that reduce the energy consumption of a facility are also eligible for funding. Review the program details to see the qualifying energy efficiency measures. Visit <https://mississippi.org/community-resources/office-energy/> or contact MDA's Energy & Natural Resources Division at (601) 359-9402 for more information.

## **Highlights from the May 2, 2023, Docket Meeting**

The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on May 2, 2023, at 10:00 am CT to consider the following [agenda](#) items:

- ☑ **The Commission** issued an Order approving the Special Contract Between **Mississippi Power Company** (MPCo) and **Cold-Link Logistics, LLC**. The Agreement meets the requirements for a special contract, including that it recovers sufficient revenues to meet MPCo's incremental costs of service to **Cold-Link**, that it contains a competitive price to retain the customer, and that the revenues received by MPCo from the Agreement will provide a contribution margin above its incremental cost of service over the life of the contract, which benefits MPCo's other retail customers.
- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order approving](#) the Notice of **Mississippi Power Company** of Filing Its Ad Valorem Tax Adjustment Factor for April 2023 Through March 2024. The proposed factor will decrease from \$0.009678 per kWh to \$0.008901 per kWh. This will result in a decrease of an average 1,000 kWh residential customer's bill by approximately \$0.78 per month; a commercial customer's bill by approximately \$10.88 per 14,000 kWh; and an industrial customer's bill by approximately \$1,985.24 per 2,555,000 kWh.
- ☑ **The Commission** considered and issued an [Order approving](#) the Application of **Time Clock Solutions, LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Resold Local Exchange & Interexchange Telecommunications Service in the State. **Time Clock** currently has no facilities of its own but will utilize those of Bell South and other facilities-based carriers through Interconnection Agreements and other commercial agreements. Their typical customers are small to medium-sized businesses.
- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order Referring](#) the Petition of **Cooperative Energy** for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing Them to Acquire, Construct, Own and Operate Electrical Transmission Lines, GOAB, and Switching Station Facilities in **Claiborne, Copiah, and Hinds Counties** to the Central District Commissioner for hearing, report and recommendation of an appropriate Order, or any other action necessary.



*If you were unable to attend the Open Docket Meeting and missed the live stream, a recording of the meeting can be found [here](#).*



## Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ **The Commission** filed its [Recommended Order](#) of the Hearing Examiner granting the Petition of **SR Marshall, LLC** for a Facilities Certificate to Construct and Operate a Solar Electric Generating Facility in **Marshall County**.
- ✎ **The Commission** also filed its [Recommended Order](#) of the Hearing Examiner granting the Petition of **SR Byhalia, LLC** for a Facilities Certificate to Construct and Operate a Solar Electric Generating Facility in **Marshall County**.
- ✎ The Following entities filed their 2022 Annual Report of Workforce Diversity and Recruiting Outreach: [Spire MS](#); [Entergy Mississippi, LLC](#); [Mississippi Power Company](#)
- ✎ **Claro Enterprise Solutions, LLC** filed its [Request to Cancel](#) its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity due to the fact that **Claro Enterprise Solutions** has not offered telecommunication services or served any customers in the State for more than three years.
- ✎ **Atmos Energy Corporation** filed its Annual [Energy Efficiency Report](#) on their Energy Efficiency Quick Start Program performance.
- ✎ **CenterPoint Energy** filed their [Supplemental Growth Rider](#) for 12 months ending December 31, 2022. Subject to **Commission** approval the filing will result in a decrease in the monthly customer charge of \$0.03 for Residential Customers; \$0.09 for Commercial Customers; and \$1.11 for Large Volume and Transportation Services.

## CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS

*More photos from the 2023 Hurricane Awareness Tour at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport*



*Pictured in the cockpit of the WC-130J*



FROM THE DESK OF  
**COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY**  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



with National Hurricane Center  
Director, Mike Brennan



- Ragsdale Solar Hearing  
May 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the  
Madison County Courthouse
- PSC's June Monthly Docket  
Meeting — June 13 at  
10:00 a.m.

*This is what community involvement looks like. This is the room for Monday night's Annual Members Meeting of the Leesburg Water Association and the line of members still signing in after the meeting started! Access to clean and safe drinking water is essential for every person's daily living, health, sanitation, and more. The state's rural water associations play a critical role in providing Mississippians with a safe, affordable and dependable source of drinking water. If you are a member of a rural water association, I urge you to be engaged, involved and informed.*



As we recently wrapped up the month of April—National Safe Digging Month—we hope you enjoy this message reminding you to call Mississippi 811, Inc. ahead of your next digging project. Calling 811 not only protects you, but also your neighbors and your community from the risks associated with damaging underground utilities. Don't be a statistic. Always call 811!



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **23** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	18
Telecommunications	3
Water/Sewer	1
Natural Gas	1



Last week, the Central District received a total of **97** complaints from consumers against potential telemarketers through our no call app, website and mail-ins. *We encourage consumers to file telemarketing complaints with the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.donotcall.gov/> in addition to filing complaints with the Mississippi Public Service Commission.*